



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 :

H04B 1/66

A2

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 98/57436

(43) International Publication Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB98/00893

(22) International Filing Date: 9 June 1998 (09.06.98)

(30) Priority Data:

9702213-1	10 June 1997 (10.06.97)	SE
9704634-6	12 December 1997 (12.12.97)	SE
9800268-6	30 January 1998 (30.01.98)	SE

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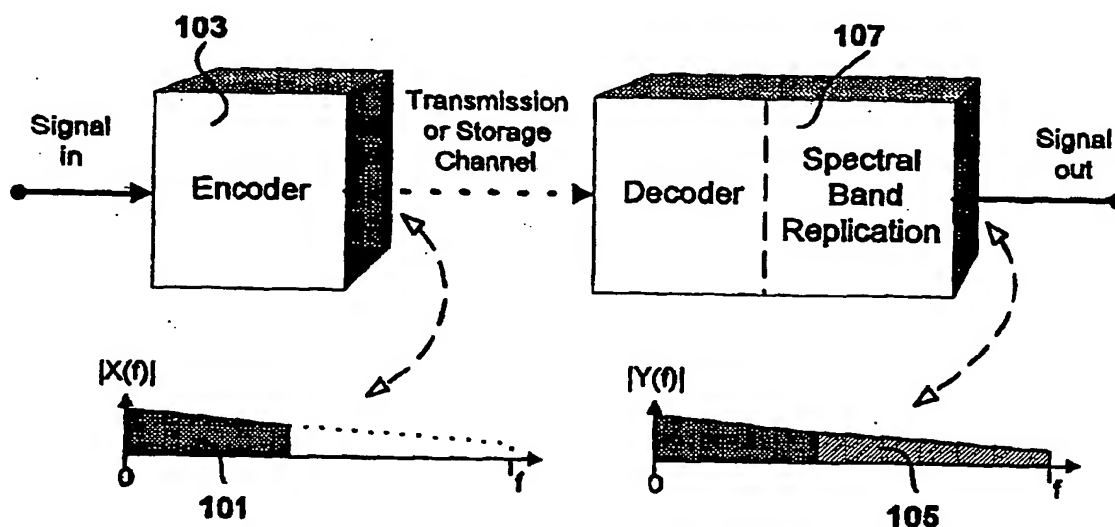
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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: SOURCE CODING ENHANCEMENT USING SPECTRAL-BAND REPLICATION



(57) Abstract

The present invention proposes a new method and apparatus for the enhancement of source coding systems. The invention employs bandwidth reduction (101) prior to or in the encoder (103), followed by spectral-band replication (105) at the decoder (107). This is accomplished by the use of new transposition methods, in combination with spectral envelope adjustments. Reduced bitrate at a given perceptual quality or an improved perceptual quality at a given bitrate is offered. The invention is preferably integrated in a hardware or software codec, but can also be implemented as a separate processor in combination with a codec. The invention offers substantial improvements practically independent of codec type and technological progress.